

Rome and Christianity

Section 3



MAIN IDEAS

1. Many problems threatened the Roman Empire, leading one emperor to divide it in half.
2. Rome declined as a result of invasions and political and economic problems.
3. In the eastern empire, people created a new society and religious traditions that were very different from those in the west.

Key Terms and People

Diocletian emperor who divided the Roman Empire into two parts

Attila fearsome Hun leader who attacked Rome's eastern empire

corruption decay in people's values

Justinian last ruler of the Roman Empire

Theodora Justinian's wife, a wise woman who advised her husband during his reign

Byzantine Empire civilization that developed in the eastern Roman Empire

Academic Vocabulary

efficient productive and not wasteful

Section Summary

PROBLEMS IN THE EMPIRE

At its height the Roman Empire ruled all of the land around the Mediterranean Sea. But by the late 100s, emperors had to give up some land.

Rome had to defend itself constantly from attacks from the north and the east. Problems came from within the empire, too. Disease killed many people. Taxes were high. Food was scarce because many farmers went to war. To increase food production, Germanic farmers were invited to work on Roman lands, but they were not loyal to Rome.

The emperor **Diocletian** took power in the late 200s. He ruled the east himself and chose a co-emperor to rule the west. The emperor Constantine reunited the empire for a short time. He moved the capital from Rome to Constantinople in the east.

Name three problems facing the Roman Empire in the late 100s.

Which emperor divided the Roman Empire? Which emperor reunited it?

Section 3, *continued*

THE DECLINE OF ROME

Once the capital moved to the east, barbarians attacked Roman territory in the north. During the late 300s, an Asian group called the Huns began attacking the Goths. The Goths were forced into Roman territory. In the end, the Goths broke through into Italy and destroyed Rome.

The Vandals, Angles, Saxons, Jutes, and Franks all invaded Roman territory in the west. The Huns under **Attila** raided in the east. In 476 a barbarian leader overthrew the Roman emperor and became king. This ended the western empire.

The vast size of the Roman empire also contributed to its fall. The government was not **efficient**, and it suffered from **corruption**. Rome was no longer the great center it had once been.

What are two factors that led to the weakening of the Roman Empire?

A NEW EASTERN EMPIRE

As Rome fell, the eastern empire prospered. **Justinian** ruled the east in the 500s. He wanted to reunite the Roman Empire. His armies recaptured Italy. He was respected for making laws more fair. But he made enemies who tried to overthrow him. Justinian got advice from his wife **Theodora** and was able to keep his throne. Despite Justinian's success, the empire declined for 700 years. In 1453 Constantinople was defeated by the Ottoman Turks.

People in the eastern empire began to follow non-Roman influences. The **Byzantine Empire** developed in the east. This empire practiced Christianity differently than Romans. In the 1000s, the church split in two. In the east the Eastern Orthodox Church formed. Thus religion further divided eastern and western Europe.

Who was Justinian's most trusted advisor?

What name was given to the society that developed out of the Eastern Roman Empire?

CHALLENGE ACTIVITY

Critical Thinking: Drawing Inferences Was there anything rulers could have done to stop the disintegration of the Roman empire, or was it inevitable? Write a one-page essay explaining your answer.

Section 3, *continued*

Attila	Byzantine Empire	corruption
Diocletian	Justinian	Theodora

DIRECTIONS Answer each question by writing a sentence that contains at least one word from the word bank.

1. Who divided the Roman Empire in the late 200s?

2. Who was the fearsome leader of the Huns?

3. What do we call the decay of people's values?

4. Which eastern Roman emperor had passion for the law and the church?

5. Who was Justinian's smart and powerful wife?

6. What do historians call the society that developed in the eastern Roman Empire?

SECTION 3**Summary**

(First Page) Possible answers—attacks from the north and east, disease, high taxes, scarce food, disloyalty; Diocletian, Constantine

(Second Page) Possible answers—invasions, size, inefficiency, corruption; Theodora; Byzantine Empire

Challenge Activity

Answers will vary. Student essays should explain their opinions and provide adequate support.

Sentences

Answers will vary. Sample answers:

1. Diocletian divided the empire.
2. Attila was the Huns' leader.
3. Corruption is the decay of people's values.
4. Justinian loved law and the church.
5. The odora was his wife.
6. The Byzantine Empire developed in the eastern Roman Empire.

The Islamic World**SECTION 1****Summary**

(First Page) Africa, Europe, Asia; because it provided protection and reduced competition

(Second Page) Students should circle: *Muhammad*; in a cave; to Mecca

Challenge Activity

Student descriptions will vary but should include a choice and a description of that choice.

Descriptive Phrases

Answers will vary. Sample answers:

1. group of traders that travel together; are nomadic
2. a religion; means "to submit to God" in Arabic
3. a building for Muslim prayer; Muhammad's house became the first of these
4. brought a new religion to Arabia; Muslims believe God had spoken to him through an angel and had made him a prophet

5. a follower of Islam; believed that Muhammad continued receiving messages from God for the rest of his life
6. a wet, fertile area in a desert; were key stops along Arabia's overland trade routes
7. a journey to a sacred place; Muslims are expected to take one of these to Mecca if they are able
8. the holy book of Islam; where the messages from God to Muhammad were collected

SECTION 2**Summary**

(First Page) Students should circle: *the Qur'an*; an internal struggle and the struggle to defend the Muslim community

(Second Page) It is a collection of Muhammad's words and actions; a yearly donation to charity; No, most Islamic countries blend Islamic law and with other laws.

Challenge Activity

Students essays should include similarities and differences between Judaism, Christianity, and Islam.

Vocabulary Terms

1. Five Pillars of Islam; The Five Pillars of Islam are five acts of worship required of all Muslims.
2. jihad; Jihad means "to make an effort, or to struggle."
3. Sunnah; The Sunnah is a guide for proper Muslim behavior.

SECTION 3**Summary**

(First Page) Abu Bakr

(Second Page) Answers will vary. Sample answer: because the sea provides good transportation routes; Students should underline: *from conquered towns*; in 1453; the Sunni and the Shia